

UNCLASSIFIED

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
2000

DOCUMENT ID: 27945230
INQNO: DOC18D 00080278
DOCNO: TEL 001248 91
PRODUCER: TUNIS
SOURCE: STATE
DOCTYPE: IN
DOR: 19910215
TOR: 075440
DOCPREC: O
ORIGDATE: 199102151208
MHFNO: 91 3089862
DOCCLASS: U

CIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO
DECLASSIFICATION AND/OR
RELEASE OF CIA INFORMATION
IN THIS DOCUMENT

HEADER
OO RUEAIIB
ZNR UUUUU ZOC STATE ZZH
MSI8756
OO RUEHEE RUEHC
DE RUEHTU #1248/01 0461209
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 151208Z FEB 91
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO RUEHFO/USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1034
RUEADWW/WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE
RUEHEE/ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
XMT SANAA DJIBOUTI CASABLANCA
RUFHNA/USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY 0332
RUCJACC/USCENTCOM REAR MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY 0690
RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY 2522
BT

CONTROLS
UNCLAS TUNIS 01248

USIA

USIA FOR P/M, P/R, P/P, B/BRN, B/BXN, NEA RUGH/BERNIER
STATE FOR NEA/AFN, NEA, PA
WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC REP
RIYADH PASS TO USIA/PAA DALGLIESH

E.O. 12356:N/A
COMBINE: COMPLETE

TEXT
SUBJECT: TFKU01 TUNIS MEDIA TREATMENT AND REACTION:
BUNKER BOMBING: FEBRUARY 15, 1991

1. FRONT PAGE HEADLINES:

--AS-SABAH (INDEPENDENT): (BANNER) "SHELTER MASSACRE:
WORLD DENUNCIATION...IRAN'S FM: 'SITUATION BEGINNING TO
GET OUT OF CONTROL'...IRAQ'S AMBASSADOR TO TOKYO: 'OVER

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001 2007

FOR COORDINATION WITH ed State

UNCLASSIFIED

Page 1

UNCLASSIFIED

7,000 CIVILIAN VICTIMS SINCE START OF WAR...PEACEFUL, SPONTANEOUS DEMONSTRATIONS IN SUPPORT OF IRAQ (IN TUNISIA)."

--LA PRESSE (GOVERNMENT-OWNED): (LEAD) "TUNISIA SHOUTS ITS INDIGNATION...AFTER THE BOMBING OF A CIVILIAN SHELTER IN BAGHDAD, THE COALITION FORCES CONTINUE TO KILL...ACCORDING TO WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN, 'THERE WILL BE MORE VICTIMS AND CIVILIAN LOSSES'."

--AS-SAHAFI (GOVERNMENT-OWNED): "FOLLOWING TERRIBLE AL-AMIRIYEH CRIME: ANGER, DENUNCIATION...SEARCH FOR VICTIMS' BODIES CONTINUE"

--AL-HORRIYA (OFFICIAL PARTY): "AL-AMIRIYEH SHELTER CRIME: WORLD SHAKEN."

--LE TEMPS (INDEPENDENT): (BANNER) "ANGER AND CONDEMNATION OF BOMBING...THE BARBARITIES OF 'ALLIED COALITION' WARFARE."

--LE RENOUVEAU (OFFICIAL PARTY): "OFFICIAL RCD PARTY STRONGLY CONDEMNS DEADLY BOMBING...SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING: TUNISIA CALLS FOR AN IMMEDIATE CEASE-FIRE."

--ASH-SHOUROUQ (INDEPENDENT): "AL-HUSSEIN (MISSILE) HITS LARGEST ALLIED BASE...SYRIA READY TO RECOGNIZE ISRAEL...CHENEY ADMITS ATTACKING HISTORICAL SITES."

2. FRONT PAGE EDITORIALS:

--AS-SABAH, BY CHIEF EDITOR ABDELLATIF FOURATI:

"DESPITE ITS HORROR, THE SHELTER MASSACRE MAY SERVE TO SOFTEN THE WORLD TO THE WAR'S DANGERS AND THE NEED TO END IT TO AVERT FURTHER TRAGEDIES. ACHIEVING SUCH A GOAL REQUIRES TRANSCENDING NARROW EGOISM AND DEALING REASONABLY WITH THE PROBLEMS AND THEIR ROOT CAUSES. THE LIVES OF THE MARTYRS OF THE SHELTER SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN LOST IN VAIN--THEY SHOULD BE SEEN AS A SPRINGBOARD TO ENDING THIS MAD WAR."

--AS-SAHAFI, UNSIGNED:

"THE U.S. JUSTIFICATION FOR THE SHELTER MASSACRE CAN BE SUMMED UP BY THE (ARAB) SAYING: 'THE DEFENSE IS EVEN WORSE THAN THE CRIME.' TO ARGUE THAT THE SHELTER WAS A MILITARY OPERATIONS CENTER SHOWS HOW RANDOM AND BLIND THE ATTACKS ARE AND HOW LITTLE WEIGHT THE U.S. GIVES TO HUMAN LIVES AND WORLD PUBLIC OPINION."

--ASH-SHOUROUQ, BY DEPUTY CHIEF EDITOR FAISAL BAATOUT:

"WITH EVERY SHOT AIMED AT IRAQ'S HEAD, (WESTERN) MASKS COME TUMBLING DOWN...THE FIRST OF THOSE MASKS WAS THE BIG LIE ABOUT LIBERATING KUWAIT--IT HAS BECOME VERY EVIDENT THAT THE HUGE ARMY ACTUALLY CAME TO DESTROY IRAQ...THE SECOND FALLING MASK REVEALED THAT THE FIRST

UNCLASSIFIED

AND LAST OBJECTIVE OF THE WAR WAS PROTECTING ISRAEL AND PREPARING FOR CAMP DAVID, PART II...

"THE WHOLE WORLD NOW REALIZES THE GREAT MISTAKE IT MADE IN IMPORTING WESTERN VALUES AND PRINCIPLES."

--LE RENOUVEAU, BY EZZEDDINE ABBASSI:

"THEY WERE INNOCENT CIVILIANS, SHELTERED UNDERGROUND TO ESCAPE THE WESTERN HATE AND MALICE. THE HORRORS IN THIS WAR ARE EXCEEDING ALL LIMITS, MAKING EICHMANN, **KLAUS BARBIE** AND MOSHE DAYAN LOOK LIKE BEGINNERS IN CONDUCTING CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY...THE U.S. STATEMENT WAS INDICATIVE OF A SAVAGE AND BEASTLY WEST FALLING INTO DECLINE."

--LE TEMPS, BY CHIEF EDITOR MUSTAPHA KHAMMARI:

"THOSE WHO THOUGHT THAT THE GREAT AMERICAN NATION WOULD ABIDE BY LAW AND AVOID DIRECTING ITS HATE TOWARD CIVILIAN TARGETS...CAN NO LONGER BELIEVE THE VALUES OF JUSTICE AND HUMAN DIGNITY THEY ONCE UPHELD. THE 'CYNICAL' AND 'SURGICAL' BOMBING OF THE AL-AMRYIA SHELTER...SHOWED CONTEMPT FOR HUMAN LIFE AND REAFFIRMED THE LAW OF THE STRONGEST."

3. COMMENTARIES:

--GOVERNMENT-OWNED DAILY LA PRESSE, LEAD ARTICLE:

"NOT SINCE THE TRAGIC AND PAINFUL EVENT OF SAKIET SIDI YOUSSEF, HAS POST-INDEPENDENCE TUNISIA BEEN AS ANGRY, AS SADDENED AND AS INDIGNANT. WEDNESDAY'S ACT BY THE U.S. AIR FORCE WAS A GROUP ASSASSINATION, BARBAROUS AND INHUMAN. EVERYWHERE, IN THE POLITICAL ARENA, IN THE STREET, IN FACTORIES, OFFICES, UNIVERSITIES AND SCHOOLS, A SINGLE SENTIMENT DOMINATES--REVOLT AGAINST THE INJUSTICE AND BRUTALITY COMMITTED IN THE NAME OF INTERNATIONAL LAW."

--INDEPENDENT BILINGUAL WEEKLY REALITES, COMMENTARY BY ITS DIRECTOR AND FOUNDER MONCEF BEN M'RAD:

"PRESIDENT BUSH SAID A FEW DAYS AGO THAT THE WAR WAS 'GOING WELL.' HAS ANY POLITICAL LEADER EVER DARED TO LINK THE WORD 'WAR' WITH 'WELL' OR 'GOOD'? IS THE WAR WELL FOR THE 8-10,000 IRAQI CIVILIANS KILLED BY BOMBS, NOT TO MENTION THE 20,000 INJURED? IS IT GOING WELL FOR THE DEAD AMONG THE COALITION FORCES? A WAR, BY DEFINITION, CAN NEVER GO WELL, AS IT ALWAYS GENERATES DESTRUCTION, DEATH AND ANIMOSITIES. ONE WONDERS WHETHER THE SYSTEMATIC BOMBING OF IRAQ'S INFRASTRUCTURE AND CIVILIAN POPULATION FALLS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF A WAR THAT 'GOES WELL'."

--INSIDE PAGE COMMENTARY IN LE RENOUVEAU, BY H'MIDA ESSOUSSI:

UNCLASSIFIED

"NOT CONTENT TO BE KNEE DEEP IN IRAQI BLOOD, THE THIRTY COUNTRIES OF THE U.S.-LED COALITION PLOW ON WITH THEIR GRIM, MACABRE MISSION. THE BOMBING OF INNOCENT CHILDREN, WOMEN AND THE ELDERLY IS DESTROYING THE ECONOMIC, INDUSTRIAL AND CULTURAL POTENTIAL OF IRAQ, A SMALL COUNTRY DETERMINED TO FIGHT WESTERN HEGEMONY AND ARROGANCE WITH FAITH AND COURAGE."

4. OTHER:

YESTERDAY'S LE TEMPS CARRIED A FRONT PAGE COMMENTARY ON SOVIET DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES:

"WHAT EMERGES FROM THE SOVIET PEACE MISSION (TO IRAQ) AND THE STATEMENTS MADE BY IRAQ'S VICE-PREMIER, IS THAT DESPITE THE OBSTINACY OF THE FIRST FEW WEEKS...THERE IS STILL ROOM FOR A PEACE SETTLEMENT, ONE WHICH IRAQ WOULD LIKE TO SEE ACHIEVED WITHOUT U.S. PARTICIPATION.

"WASHINGTON MAY BE UNWILLING TO LET MOSCOW TAKE THE INITIATIVE...HOWEVER THE SOVIET UNION, AS A UNSC PERMANENT MEMBER, HAS THE RIGHT AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO THWART U.S. STRATEGY. WITH ITS PRESTIGE AND INFLUENCE SEVERELY DIMINISHED ON THE WORLD STAGE, ONE NOW EXPECTS A BURST OF SOVIET PRIDE, AND ACTIONS WHICH WOULD REGAIN THE GOOD FAVOR OF ARAB PUBLIC OPINION."

MINIMIZES CONSIDERED. UNDELAND

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

UNCLASSIFIED